(b)The percentage of population living below poverty line in the country has been estimated as 36% in 1993-94 and 26.1 % in 1999-2000. Estimates of percentage of India's population living below poverty line in 1991 and 2002 are not available.

(c) Consistent with the overall growth target of 8% per annum, the percentage of population living below poverty line has been projected to be 19.3% at the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Allotment of funds to States for cancer treatment

674. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal of allotting funds to States for cancer treatment for people of BPL in all major Government hospitals of all States;

(b) whether the Finance Ministry is willing to co-ordinate with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to formulate such a plan;

(c) if so, by when any official proposal would be worked out between the two Ministries; and

(d) if not, whether Government are willing to consider giving any medical concessions to the poor suffering from cancer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Under the National Cancer Control Programme, funds are provided for various schemes being implemented through the NGOs and the State Government Organizations. Funds are not earmarked for any specific State or any particular class/group Of people. Grant-in-aid proposals are to be received with the State Government's recommendations.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has so far recognized twenty Regional Cancer Centres in different States/UTs. In these Regional Cancer Centres and in the Government Hospitals/Medical Colleges, a large number of poor patients are being treated either free of cost or at

nominal charges for diagnostic and therapeutic procedures involved in cancer treatment.

Investments of non resident Indians

675. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of NRIs investment made during the last three years, State-wise and sector-wise;

(b) what are the guidelines by Government on NRI investment; and

(c) the details of offers received from the NRIs during the recently concluded Indian Diaspora Meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) A statement on NRI investment approval, State-wise and sector-wise both, during the period January, 2000 to December, 2002, is laid on the Table of the House. (See below)

(b) The general policy and facility for Foreign Direct Investment as available to foreign investors/companies are fully applicable to non-resident Indians (NRI) as well. In addition, Government have extended additional opportunities for NRIs and Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) which include (i) NRI/OCB investment in the real estate and housing sector and domestic airlines upto 100%, and (ii) investment by individual NRI beyond 24% in small scale industries provided they do not have a stake in any other industrial undertaking. NRIs are allowed also to make bulk investment for revival of sick unit to the extent of 100%. They are also allowed to invest without any limit on non-repatriable basis in Indian companies and proprietary/partnership concerns subject to the investee company/firm not being engaged in agricultural/plantation activity, real estate business, chit fund or Nidhi company activities.

(c) NRIs evinced keen interest in investment procedure and opportunities in India. However, no concrete offers for investment in India from NRIs were received during 'Pravasi Bharatiya Divas' celebrations.